

Generating Economic Recovery Program (TIGER) and the policy rider to TIGER included in the Fiscal Year 2015 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) appropriations bill.

One of the primary objectives of TIGER is to invest in transportation projects that better connect communities to centers of employment, education, and services and that hold promise to stimulate long-term job growth, especially in economically distressed areas. TIGER has been traditionally open to all governmental entities from cities and counties to port and rail authorities and universities.

The House FY15 THUD bill includes \$100 million for TIGER grants. This is an 80% decrease from current funding levels. In the current (FY14) grant application round, the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) has received nearly 800 applications requesting a total of \$9.5 billion, with only \$600 million to invest—that's a request of more than 15 times what can be awarded.

The House FY15 THUD bill also includes a worrisome policy rider, with language that would restrict TIGER eligibility to roads/highways, bridges, freight rail and ports. This would be a major change to the grant program, which has traditionally attracted a wide variety of innovative projects including public transportation and passenger rail, bicycle and pedestrian projects.

These policy riders and severe cuts to TIGER are troubling. From the Durfee Avenue rail-highway grade separation project in Pico Rivera, to Artesia's proposal to build a public parking structure and expand sidewalks in the city's commercial district, to the City of Cerritos' request to facilitate the reconstruction of the Del Amo Boulevard Bridge, which is outdated and presents significant capacity, safety and accessibility problems. Substantial funding for TIGER grants is crucial for my District.

I ask that my colleagues join me in opposing the 80% cuts to TIGER grants and language restricting TIGER eligibility in the House FY15 THUD bill. Providing funding for these and other TIGER projects are about the safety, economic development, and services that communities deserve.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,555,165,805,212.20. We've added \$6,928,288,756,299.20 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RABBI SANDY EISENBERG SASSO FOR 36 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE INDIANAPOLIS COMMUNITY

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rabbi Sandy Sasso for her 36 years of service to the Indianapolis community. The people of the Fifth Congressional District and the entire City of Indianapolis are forever grateful for Rabbi Sasso's nearly 4 decades of community leadership and spiritual guidance.

Over the years, Rabbi Sasso's leadership has been a critical part of so many people's religious journey. Her dedication in guiding Congregation Beth-El Zedeck is a model for community and religious leaders everywhere. As the first female to be ordained from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, Rabbi Sasso has been a trailblazer for women of faith all over the country. Her journey proves to young women everywhere that through hard work and discipline, their dreams can become reality.

Rabbi Sasso's path to becoming an accomplished theologian wasn't without critics. Many thought that the traditional role of men in the rabbinate should be upheld. However, Rabbi Sasso never let the naysayers deter her from fulfilling a lifelong dream. After completing both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Temple University, she continued to relentlessly pursue her goal, eventually becoming just the second female ever to be ordained in the United States.

However, Rabbi Sasso's accomplishments are not just limited to her admirable work in the synagogue. She is also a mother, an award-winning children's book author, a major organizer for the Indianapolis Spirit and Place Festival, and so much more. While her time as the leader of Beth-El Zedeck may be coming to a close, I am certain that her tenure as a pillar in the Indianapolis community is nowhere near its end.

On behalf of the grateful constituents of Indiana's Fifth Congressional District, I congratulate Rabbi Sasso on the occasion of her retirement. Thank you, Rabbi, for your decades of dedicated leadership with Beth-El Zedeck. Best wishes to you as you pursue new challenges in the many bright years ahead of you.

HONORING TRAVIS TAYLOR FOR HIS ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE LOGGING INDUSTRY

HON. VANCE M. McALLISTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. McALLISTER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor Travis Taylor of Winn Parish for his numerous accomplishments and contribution to the logging industry.

Mr. Taylor, a Louisiana native, became a successful logging contractor after earning a degree in forestry from Louisiana Tech University.

Mr. Taylor's devotion of time and effort to the logging industry is second to none having been recognized at the national level for his progressive influence in the United States Forest Service. Aside from being the founder of Southern Loggers Cooperative and Wood Products Development Foundation, Travis has also been recognized as "Louisiana Logger of the Year," served as President of the Louisiana Logging Council, and served on the board of directors of The Timbermen's Self-Insurance Fund.

Mr. Taylor exemplifies a strong character of leadership, hard work and dedication. He has earned the respect and admiration of everyone he has met along his journey. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mr. Taylor and his years of commitment and achievements.

IN MEMORY OF DON DAVIS

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a trailblazer in business, music, and philanthropy from the great City of Detroit: Mr. Don Davis.

Mr. Davis—who passed away on Thursday, June 5—at the age of 75, was the CEO of the First Independence Bank as well as a Grammy-winning record producer and a celebrated musician. He brought both joy and prosperity to his community and to all those around him.

Mr. Davis started his career as a session guitarist for Motown in the 1960's and eventually rose to become owner of the legendary studio known as United Sound. While his musical career spanned numerous studios and labels, Mr. Davis's musical legacy will forever be associated with Motown. This musical legacy includes guitar work in Barrett Strong's "Money (That's What I Want)" and Mary Wells' "Bye Bye Baby". Since its founding, Motown has been a cultural cornerstone of the United States, and it has been an honor to call Mr. Davis—one of Motown's original musicians—a friend.

As a Detroit and a public servant, I have admired Mr. Davis not only for his music but also for his trailblazing accomplishments in business and philanthropy. After retiring from his career as a professional guitarist in 1970, he founded what would become Michigan's only African-American owned and operated commercial bank: the First Independence Bank. Over time, this institution would rise to become the 12th largest African-American owned bank in the nation, holding nearly 5 percent of all assets in the nation's African-American banking community.

Mr. Davis never saw business as a means to advance personal interests. Instead, he led his business to maximize the expansion of economic opportunity for underserved people. He was a fervent believer in bringing entrepreneurial prospects and quality jobs to people in desperate need. A renaissance man, Mr. Davis brought the passion he displayed as a Motown musical artist to the fields of finance and economic development.

I am deeply saddened to learn of the death of my dear friend, Mr. Don Davis. He will live